

Worksession

Agenda Item #	10
Meeting Date	September 27, 2004
Prepared By	Barbara B. Matthews
Approved by	Barbara B. Matthews

Discussion Item	Proposal for review of tax duplication issue by the Council and the public
Background	<p>With the recent increase in property values and the corresponding increase in property taxes paid to the City of Takoma Park, there has been increasing concern in the community regarding the issue of tax duplication. In response to this concern, the Council charged the City Manager with conducting a comprehensive review of the issue of tax duplication.</p> <p>To assist the Council and the public in reviewing this complex issue, the City Manager proposes the formation of a Citizens Committee on Tax Duplication. Additional information regarding the proposed Committee is attached.</p>
Policy	The City Council will review the proposal of the City Manager and determine how the city should proceed in reviewing the issue of tax duplication.
Fiscal Impact	None, unless Council desires for Committee meetings to be videotaped
Attachments	Additional information regarding Committee structure and charge
Recommendation	Proceed with formation of Citizens Committee on Tax Duplication
Special Consideration	

Proposed Citizens Committee on Tax Duplication

Structure

The Council would appoint committee members, with up to three representatives from each ward. The Mayor would appoint up to three members, one of whom would serve as Chair.

Duration of Committee

The Committee would be established for six months, with a final report presented to the Council and the public at the conclusion of the Committee's work.

Charge

The Committee would be charged with the following duties and tasks:

- Become knowledgeable of the legal requirements and constraints of municipal tax duplication in the State of Maryland and in Montgomery County and recommend how the City can communicate this information to the public
- Identify areas where further research is needed concerning tax duplication
- Recommend actions the City could take to obtain a fairer tax duplication payment from Montgomery County and to decrease the level of tax duplication paid by City property owners
- Provide assistance and guidance in the development of the resident survey, specifically in regard to those questions concerning City service delivery

Initial Meeting Dates and Topics (Tentative)

October 4	Appointment of Committee Members by Council
October 12	Initial meeting of Committee. Discussion of meeting process and distribution of materials
October 26	Presentations by experts in Maryland and Montgomery County tax duplication provisions
November 9	Detailed review of Montgomery County municipal tax duplication formulas and the amounts received by Takoma Park
November 23	Panel of representatives from Rockville, Gaithersburg, and other Montgomery County municipalities regarding their levels of police, public works, parks, recreation, and other services and their differing levels of use of Montgomery County services
December 7	Public forum/question-and-answer session
December 14	Discuss results of public forum/question-and-answer session. Determine whether additional public forums should be held.

Because of the complexity of the tax duplication issue, Committee member attendance at all of the October and November meetings will be important.

Staff Support to Committee

City Manager Barb Matthews and Community and Government Liaison Suzanne Ludlow will provide staff support to the Committee.

Public Participation

All Committee meetings will be open to the public. Presentation and meeting materials will be posted on the City's website. It is anticipated that at least one public forum will be held.

If deemed appropriate by the Council, Committee meetings could be videotaped and aired on the City's cable television channel. The cost would be approximately \$300 per meeting.